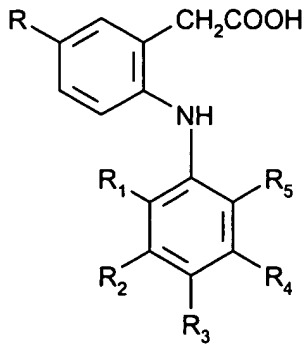
Amendments t the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the original version of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (original) A compound of formula I



(I)

wherein R is methyl or ethyl;
R_1 is chloro or fluoro;
R_2 is hydrogen or fluoro;
R_3 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy or hydroxy;
R_4 is hydrogen or fluoro; and
R_5 is chloro, fluoro, trifluoromethyl or methyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R is methyl or ethyl; R_1 is chloro or fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl or hydroxy; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro, fluoro or methyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R is methyl or ethyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen, fluoro or hydroxy; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R is methyl or ethyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is fluoro; R_3 is hydrogen, ethoxy or hydroxy; R_4 is fluoro; and R_5 is fluoro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R is methyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen or fluoro; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

6. (original) A compound according to claim 1 which is 5-methyl-2-(2'-chloro-6'-fluoroanilino)phenylacetic acid wherein in formula I R is methyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (original) A compound according to claim 1 which is 5-methyl-2-(2',4'-difluoro-6'-chloroanilino)phenylacetic acid wherein in formula I R is methyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is fluoro; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1 which is 5-ethyl-2-(2',3',5',6'-tetrafluoroanilino)phenylacetic acid wherein in formula I R is ethyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is fluoro; R_3 is hydrogen; R_4 is fluoro; and R_5 is fluoro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 1 which is substantially free of cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

11. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 6 which is substantially free of cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

12. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 7 which is substantially free of cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

13. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 8 which is substantially free of cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

14. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 9 which is substantially free of cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

15. (original) A method of treating cyclooxygenase-2 dependent disorders in mammals while substantially eliminating undesirable side effects associated with cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 1 which is substantially free of cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity.

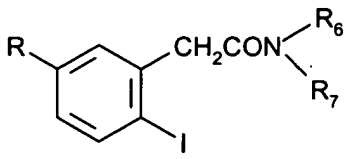
16. (original) A method of selectively inhibiting cyclooxygenase-2 activity in a mammal without substantially inhibiting cycloxygenase-1 activity which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 1 which is substantially free of cyclooxygenase-1 inhibiting activity.

17. (original) A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, pain, inflammation in mammals which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a correspondingly effective amount of a compound of claim 1 which is substantially free of gastrointestinal ulceration.

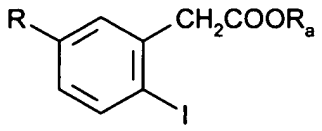
18. (original) A method of treating ocular inflammatory disorders, glaucoma or dry eye disease in mammals which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a correspondingly effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

19. (original) A method for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 which comprises:

(a) coupling a compound of formula II or IIa



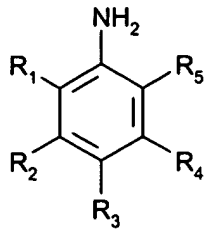
(II)



(IIa)

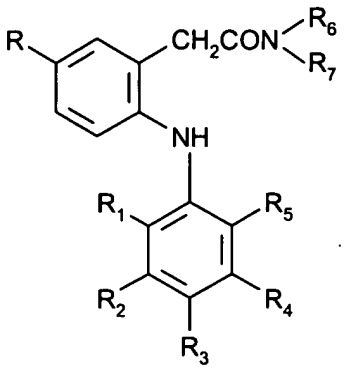
wherein R has meaning as defined; R_a is lower alkyl; and R_6 and R_7 represent lower alkyl; or R_6 and R_7 together with the nitrogen atom represent piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino;

with a compound of formula III

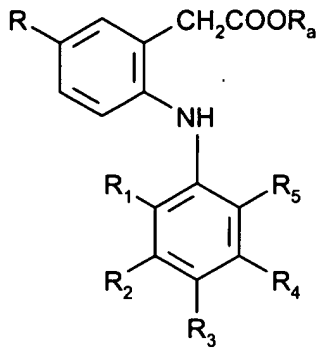


(III)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 have meaning as defined in said claim 1, in the presence of copper and cuprous iodide, to obtain a compound of formula IV or IVa



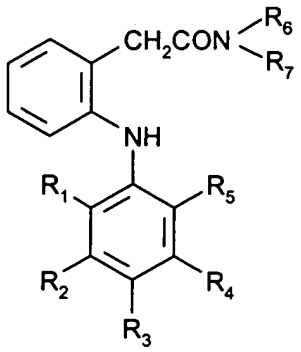
(IV)



(IVa)

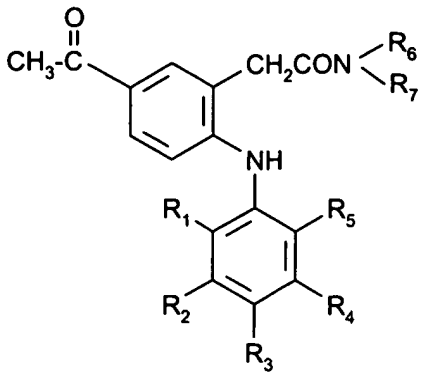
and hydrolyzing the resulting compound of formula IV or IVa to a compound of formula I; or

(b) for compounds in which R represents ethyl, condensing a compound of formula V



(V)

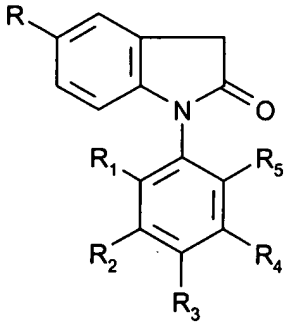
wherein R_1-R_7 have meaning as defined above, with a reactive functional derivative of acetic acid, such as acetyl chloride, in a Friedel-Crafts acylation reaction to obtain a compound of the formula VI



(VI)

wherein R_1-R_7 have meaning as defined above, and which is in turn hydrogenolyzed and then hydrolyzed to obtain a compound of formula I wherein R represents ethyl; or

(c) hydrolyzing a lactam of formula VII



(VII)

wherein R and R_1-R_5 have meaning as defined, with a strong base; and

in above processes, if desired, temporarily protecting any interfering reactive groups and then isolating the resulting compound of the invention; and, if desired, converting any resulting compound into another compound of the invention; and/or if desired converting a free carboxylic acid of the invention into a pharmaceutically acceptable ester derivative thereof; and/or if desired, converting a resulting free acid into a salt or a resulting salt into the free acid or into another salt.

20-35. (cancelled)